

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

TRSE-00 AGR-05 INT-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /041 W

-----140811Z 105459 /10

R 131024Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1616

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4945

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRE, EAGR, ENRG, PK

SUBJECT: TARBELA DAM: SITUATION REPORT

REF: ISLAMABAD 4575

1. THE NEW TAMS ACTING CHIEF RESIDENT ENGINEER, KRISTIAN MATHISEN, PAID A CALL ON THE EMBASSY MAY 12 AND REPORTED THAT OPERATIONS AT THE DAM WERE PROCEEDING WELL. THE FIRST TURBINE WENT ON STREAM MAY 1 WITH AN OUTPUT OF 50,000 KW. THE OTHER THREE TURBINES WILL START OPERATING AT ABOUT MONTHLY INTERVALS. AS FOR THE TWICE REPAIRED STILLING BASIN NO. 3., THIS HAD BEEN UTILIZED FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS NOW FOR 8-12 HOURS DAILY, AND NO PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED. THE BASIN IS BEING MONITORED ELECTRONICALLY, AND INSPECTED DAILY BY DIVERS DURING THE HOURS THE WATER IS SHUT OFF, AND SO FAR EVERYTHING IS HOLDING UP VERY WELL. TAMS WAS HOPEFUL THIS PROBLEM AREA WAS NOW TAKEN CARE OF.

2. ASKED ABOUT REPAIRS TO STILLING BASIN NO. 4, MATHISEN SAID THAT THIS WAS THE ONE REMAINING MAJOR PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED. THERE WERE ESSENTIALLY TWO REPAIR OPTIONS OPEN: AN ELABORATE, RADICAL PROPOSAL BY THE STATE ENGINEERING COMPANY, NESPAC, AND A SIMPLER ONE BY TAMS. THE NESPAC SOLUTION, IF ADOPTED, WOULD REQUIRE TWO YEARS TO REDO

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THE BASIN, WHILE THE TAMS SOLUTION WOULD TAKE ONLY ONE YEAR. A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY SEPTEMBER.

3. MATHISEN HAD LITTLE NEW TO REPORT ABOUT EITHER THE CAVITY ON THE DAM FACE OR THE SINK HOLES IN THE RESERVOIR BED. TEST BORINGS WERE BEING MADE ABOUT THE CAVITY, BUT TAMS EXPECTED THAT NO WEAKNESSES WOULD BE

FOUND AND THAT THE HOLE COULD SOON BE FILLED. TAMS SURMISED THAT THE CAVITY DEVELOPED IN 1974 WHEN THE LAKE HAD TO BE DRAINED VERY QUICKLY AND TREMENDOUS VIBRATIONS HAD SHAKEN THE DAM. AS FOR THE SINK HOLES IN THE RESERVOIR BED, NO NEW ONES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED DURING THE LAST TWO SONAR SURVEYS AND TAMS NOW BELIEVED THE SINK HOLE PHENOMENON HAD STABILIZED.

4. THE LEVEL OF THE DAM'S RESERVOIR HAS NOW REACHED ITS MINIMUM ALLOWED POINT, AND THE OUT-FLOW OF WATER THROUGH THE TUNNELS EQUALS THE IN-FLOW INTO THE RESERVOIR. BY EARLY JUNE THE RESERVOIR IS EXPECTED TO RISE AGAIN AS THE ANNUAL SNOW MELT INCREASES THE FLOW OF THE INDUS.

AMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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